

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-1351 / 158486.1
Application No.: 09/682,040
Office Action Dated: March 12, 2003

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-33 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has imposed a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 among two inventions: Group I, corresponding to claims 1-17 and 28-30; and Group II, corresponding to claims 18-27 and 31-33.

Applicants elect Group I, consisting of claims 1-17 and 28-30 for examination. Applicants make no representations by this election regarding the merits of the restriction requirement, the scope of the originally presented claims, or the possible existence of multiple distinct inventions. Applicants agree to withdraw the claims of Group II, claims 18-27 and 31-33, without prejudice and reserve the right to file them in a later application.

Applicants respectfully submit that Groups I and II, as set forth by the Examiner, are amenable to being examined without imposing a serious burden on the Examiner. Accordingly, applicants request that the examiner reconsider this restriction requirement after an initial search has been conducted. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Kenneth R. Eiferman at (215) 557-5970, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

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Kenneth R. Eiferman
Registration No. 51, 647

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439